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REPORT

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1. The logs for the Tavda sawmill are floated down the Tavda River into a quiet backwater near the mill. Here a chain conveyor picks them out of the water and moves them to the mill. The power for the conveyor is obtained from a steam engine which uses crushed waste material from the mill as fuel. All other power for the mill's operations is obtained in the same way. There is no shortage of fuel since the mill's operations result in about 30% waste, and there is a large crushing machine to convert this into fuel.
2. The sawmill has three sawing units, each of these with a series of saws. Each log is run through the machine twice. The logs are mostly pine, about 30 feet long, with an average diameter of 15 inches. It takes 25-30 minutes to saw each log completely, including time for adjustment, etc. This works out to a total production of 70-80 logs per 24 hour day.
3. The sawn lumber is taken out of the mill by conveyor and stored in the yard. Most of it is air-dried. A maximum of 10% is steam-dried, usually the better grades. Most of the lumber is loaded onto trains but some goes to the Tavda wood-working factory nearby where it is made into skis and many other products. This factory is divided into two sections, each housing two large wood-working machines, planers or something of that sort. About 200 people are employed there, mostly trusted Soviets, indicating that some of the work, at least, is secret.
4. There follows a rough breakdown of the labor force at the Tavda sawmill in 1941. The majority of the workers were deportees (men and women). These people were under the supervision of the NKVD, but lived in comparative freedom in houses about four miles from the sawmill.

Working on the conveyor taking logs from the river to the mill -  
two 12-hour shifts of 100-150 people each.

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Feeding the sawing units, conveyors, etc, inside the mill -  
two 12-hour shifts of 60-80 people each.

Working on the large conveyor which took sawn material out of  
the mill - two 12-hour shifts of 20 people each.

Stacking, cleaning and other yardwork, including train-loading -  
two 12-hour shifts of 2-300 people per shift.

Construction crew composed of three gangs, 15 workers each. These  
men were all carpenters, skilled, by USSR standards, in the  
use of tools. They took care of constructing small buildings,  
platforms, etc.

5. In addition to the deportees who did most of the work described above,  
there was also an ample supply of forced labor, apparently from a nearby  
camp. As many as 3-400 of these people were herded in to carry out  
particular jobs. While working, they were always fenced in and closely  
guarded. Most of them were Soviets and there were also some who appeared  
to be Chinese.

6. [redacted] in 1941 there were about 50 trucks assigned to the  
sawmill's operations. Most of these were wood-burners, although a  
few of the specialized lumber carriers used gasoline.
7. A plywood factory was being constructed about six miles away, but had  
not been finished by late 1941.

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